

3 October 1958

BASIC INTELLIGENCE

1. During the reporting period the NIS passed the program's tenth anniversary, having in the ten years virtually completed initial coverage of JCS high-priority areas and made significant progress in the program's second phase of maintenance production to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the National Intelligence Survey.

2. NIS production during the reporting period brought the total NIS produced to date to 4,310 sections. This represents 72% of initial across-the-board topical coverage on all world areas, and 95% initial coverage on the JCS high-priority group of areas. As a result of concerted efforts to compensate for manpower reductions and crash intelligence situations in the contributing agencies, the rate of NIS production is being sustained at close to the level achieved during FY 1958, when the JCS yearly requirement of 500 sections was exceeded. Over one-third of the production effort is now being allocated to maintenance revision of the published NIS to reflect both changes in intelligence requirements and the organized and continuing collection and processing of source materials which is a basic element in the NIS program.

3. Near East developments during the reporting period were accompanied by various indications of significant related use of the NIS, including urgent requests for additional copies on a wide range of topical sections.

24 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary, Intelligence Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT: Annual Report to the NSC on the Status
of the Foreign Intelligence Program**

**Enclosed is the report on the National Intelligence
Survey program requested in your memorandum of 7 July 1958.**

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**Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence**

**Enclosure:
NIS Report**

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24 July 1958

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY (NIS)

This year marked the tenth anniversary of NIS operations pursuant to NSC Intelligence Directive No. 3 of 13 January 1948. In ten years' time the NIS program has established a uniquely consistent and sustained record of development, production, and dissemination of basic intelligence required in the active support of the national security.

NIS production during the year substantially exceeded the yearly goal set by the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and brought the total produced thus far to 4,260 NIS sections. This represents more than 71% of initial world coverage, and on the JCS high-priority areas coverage is now over 95% complete. One-third of the year's production effort went into the maintenance revision of published NIS sections.

Major accomplishments this year include development and active production of NIS Annuals to provide interim maintenance for the Chapters I (Brief). The recurrent problem of unbalanced production showed definite signs of improvement, particularly among the Defense Agencies. The Department of State has faced serious staffing problems over the past several years during the integration of departmental staffs into the Foreign Service and, as a result, its NIS production has been seriously unbalanced. However, corrective measures have been instituted and, through their continuation, it is believed State will progressively stabilize its production.

In all respects this has been a successful year of operations, with the usefulness of the NIS extended, new requirements developed, and a wholehearted support evidenced by all participating agencies.

The first decade of the NIS program was primarily concerned with the initial production of basic intelligence on a world-wide basis. The major portion of that initial phase has been completed and maintenance requirements to ensure the continuing validity and adequacy of published NIS are increasing steadily. Actually, more maintenance production should now be underway than present capabilities permit.

Continuation of present production capabilities will enable the NIS program to attain the JCS requirement of 500 sections annually. By 30 June 1961, initial world coverage should be 90% complete, including 100% coverage on JCS high-priority areas. More than half of yearly production effort will be devoted to maintenance and about 35% of all published NIS will have been revised under the maintenance program.